

**ALA Midwinter Meeting 2008**  
**ALCTS Technical Services Directors of Large Research Libraries**  
**ALCTS CMDS Chief Collection Development Officers of Large Research Libraries**  
**Report of Recent Activities at the National Agricultural Library**

**NAL Budget:**

On December 26, 2007, the President signed the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill into law. This omnibus appropriation bill provides \$555 billion in discretionary funds to Federal agencies in the executive branch of government for the fiscal year that began 1 October 2007. The bill mandates an across-the-board reduction 0.7% from FY 2007 levels impacting all USDA programs and activities. At present, NAL is awaiting guidance from USDA and OMB for implementation of the FY 2008 appropriation of \$22.410 million. The FY 2008 appropriation requires that agencies absorb the costs of mandatory costs of pay raises effective January, 2008.

**AgSpace:**

Work continued on development of NAL's Institutional Repository, *AgSpace* (<http://agspace.nal.usda.gov/>). NAL sees development of *AgSpace* as an ongoing Library-wide commitment. The Technical Services Division's organizational structure, staffing, and workflows have all been realigned to ensure continued sustained growth of *AgSpace*. Within a six month time period NAL staff harvested, indexed, and loaded to *AgSpace* over 7,300 research articles, conference proceedings, abstracts, and other items published by USDA authors. NAL will continue to develop *AgSpace* in the coming year and anticipates loading over 800 articles each month. A key area to address in 2008 will be marketing of *AgSpace* to USDA researchers and scientists.

**AGRICOLA Re-scope:**

The re-scoping of the AGRICOLA Index has been completed. Index coverage is now focused on USDA-generated information and core agricultural titles. AGRICOLA functions as the core metadata catalog for NAL's digital repository with an index entry for every full-text article and publication in *AgSpace*.

**Thesaurus:**

The 2008 edition of the NAL Thesaurus was released in January. There are parallel English and Spanish versions with each concept specifically linked to a term in the other language. The 2008 edition contains new and updated terms many in response to suggestions from users. The Thesaurus is available in several formats (PDF, ASCII, SKOS, MARC) at <http://agclass.nal.usda.gov/agt/download.shtml>

**Materials Budget:**

NAL was able to increase its purchasing power for print and electronic serials by about 8% in FY07. As mentioned in last summer's report, the Library was also able to leverage more funds for monographic purchases, allowing NAL to reestablish arrangements with several foreign vendors. Participation in the Library of Congress Cooperative Acquisitions Program was also renewed. NAL continues to reach out to other USDA agencies to increase financial support for its USDA DigiTop service of

licensed electronic journals. If we are unable to receive additional contributed funds in the coming year, it is possible that we will have to undergo a serial cancellation project or reduce purchases for print monographs

**Renewed Collection Development Efforts:**

After a dormant period lasting several years, NAL's Collection Development Committee was reconstituted recently with an expanded membership that includes more staff from the Public Services Division. We are now working on the difficult task of developing an overarching strategy that brings together our expanding array of collections. One of the first tasks of the Collection Development Committee was to charge a Digitization Subcommittee that will assist in prioritizing Library-wide digital reformatting projects.

**Collaborative Projects:**

Collection development staff at NAL, the National Library of Medicine, and the Library of Congress completed a revision to the *Joint Collection Development Policy Statement of the National Library of Medicine, the National Agricultural Library and the Library of Congress: Veterinary Science and Related Subjects*. This was the first revision to the collection development policy statement since 1996. It will be posted on the Libraries' web sites in the near future. On a related front, staff from NAL and the National Library of Medicine continued work on a portal to free electronic resources and web sites that will be made available to veterinarians worldwide in the coming year.

Cataloging and collection development staff at NAL and the Library of Congress continued to work on procedures related to the Electronic Cataloging in Publication program. After an initial trial period was completed, NAL staff felt confident enough with the program to select more subject areas. Books published in selected subject areas will receive CIP cataloging from NAL staff. Once the book is available, a free copy will be sent to NAL. This program increases NAL's purchasing power for foreign purchases and non-trade items. Collection development staff will monitor the program, and, if needed, block specific publishers and/or subject areas from our US approval plan to reduce the likelihood of receiving duplicates.

NAL and the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) library began work on a cooperative project whereby NAL will provide acquisitions services for ERS. The goal of this project is to reduce duplication between the two libraries and increase purchasing power for both. Initially, the ERS library subscriptions will be purchased as print + electronic, but, eventually they will become electronic only. Since NAL reduced its purchases to economics titles some years ago, this project will allow NAL to fill an important gap in its collections for its users.

**New collections of note:**

NAL acquired the Food Security Resource Collection Library from Counterpart International. The collection of over 8,000 books, reports, and documents contains many unique titles with a special emphasis on food security in developing nations. We also made significant expansions to our collection of nineteenth century and early twentieth

century seed trade catalogs and added a unique collection of historical materials from the United States Department of Agriculture Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics.

**“Big Deal” purchases:**

NAL renegotiated its contracts with Elsevier and Springer to purchase their “big deal” packages (Elsevier “Freedom Collection” and “All SpringerLink Americas Collection,” respectively). With the renegotiation, NAL now has access to over 2,400 journal titles from the two publishers in electronic form. While this expanded access is of great benefit to our USDA internal users, we have concerns about the number of titles included within the collections that are out of scope or remotely related to the agricultural sciences. NAL managers and collection development staff are discussing how to move forward to increase the scope of our collections while also maintaining the AGRICOLA brand name for a database for materials in “agriculture and related sciences.”

**Vendors/Systems Development:**

NAL fully implemented embedded order data, EDIFACT invoicing, and OCLC PromptCat services with our primary domestic monographic vendor, Blackwell’s Book Services. We have already seen a significant increase in the number of books cataloged in the Acquisitions and Collection Development Branch that used to be cataloged by the Bibliographic Services Branch.

We are now working on implementing EDIFACT invoicing and claiming with our primary print subscription vendor, EBSCO Subscription Services. A team of staff who work with NAL license agreements is reviewing the DLF ERMI data elements to determine which should be tracked in the Meridian Electronic Resource Management System. We plan on implementing Meridian in 2008.

**Book Contract:**

NAL competed a five year book contract for English language materials which was awarded to Blackwell’s Book Services in September. Staff is now working on reestablishing the NAL approval plans with Blackwell’s.

**Personnel:**

Vicky Crone, formerly of the Congressional Research Service, began work as NAL’s Head of Continuing Resources within the Acquisitions and Collection Development Branch in August.

Prepared by:

Christopher Cole, Associate Director for Technical Services

Karl Debus-López, Head of the Acquisitions and Collection Development Branch and Chief Collection Development Officer.